

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 196**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rodney Grizzle, Kenneth Brown, Harry Bell		
DATE:	February 15, 2007	SBD:	2007052

AUTHOR:	Senator Ritchie	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	15-36-10
SUBJECT:	Family Court Reform Act of 2007		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 196 amends various sections of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 by enacting the "Family Court Reform Act of 2007". This Bill revises certain statutory provisions relating to spousal support, marital misconduct and related issues, creates the Family Court Hearing Officers and requires mediation for family court matters. The Bill also allows the Department of Social Services to file civil actions in cases where allegations of child abuse or neglect have been made in bad faith.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Judicial Department:

The Department indicates this Bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State, which the agency can absorb at the current level of funding.

Department of Social Services:

The Department indicates this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds.


LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

Two local governments indicated enactment would have little or impact on expenditures. Two others indicated they would need one or two additional staff. Recurring cost estimates ranged from \$31,250 to \$82,000.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget